

# Arizona Integrated Services for CYSHCN Task Force

**“Turning the Page”**

Presented by  
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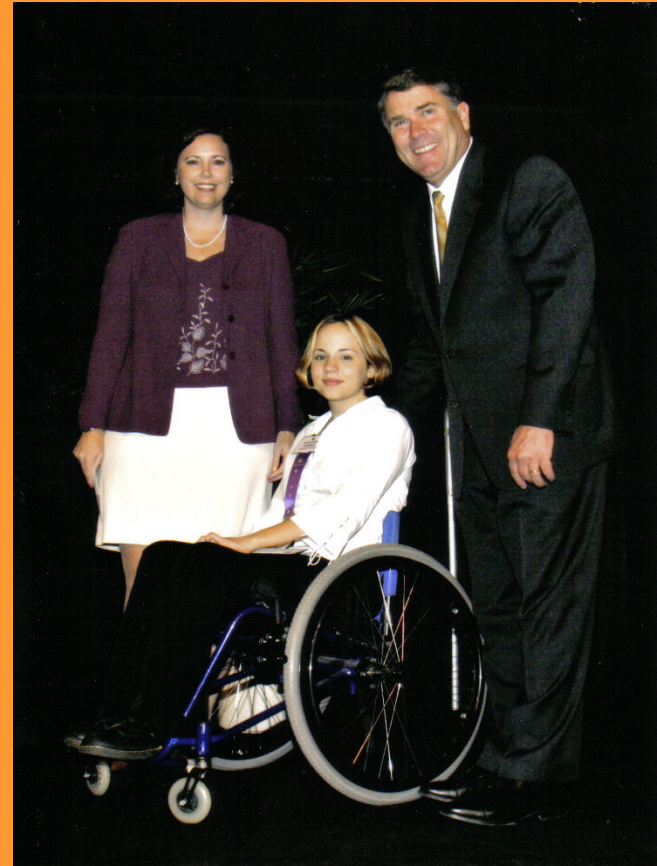


10/13/05



# My Story

My family and I were nearly home from an awesome Fourth of July vacation in Texas when we were involved in a traumatic car accident. I had received my driver's permit the previous May and was driving on a seemingly safe stretch of I-10 when a combination of events caused me to lose control of my car. I had read the manual on how to recover from fish-tails and skids but panic and adrenaline were catalysts for disaster.



# ...continued



The car rolled twice and came to rest on all four wheels. My sister was ejected and was not expected to survive. My parents were, for the most part, alright but the car was demolished: the entire drivers side and roof was crushed. To the left is a picture of the car after the accident. My sister, thankfully, pulled through but I received a spinal cord injury as a result from a compression fracture to my neck.



# Getting Back Into School

- **My hospital social worker communicated with my high school**
- **When I came home and was ready to go back to school, I met with a team of academic counselors and a school psychologist to discuss my new needs:**
  - I needed more time to get to my classes**
  - I needed more time for homework- especially written assignments**
  - I needed transportation**
  - I needed Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

# Tackling The Medical World

- **AHCCCS**
  - **No prior health insurance**
  - **No experience with welfare system**
  - **New, expensive, and critical healthcare needs**
    - **Wheelchairs**
    - **Shower chairs**
    - **Care assistant**
    - **Specialized doctors**
- **CRS (Children's Rehabilitation Services) and Mercy Care**
- **Generalized care**
- **Not knowing the right questions to ask**
- **Long waiting periods**

# Money Issues

- **New expenses**
  - **Urological Supplies**
  - **Co-pays**
  - **Other Supplies**
- **SSI**
  - **Paperwork**
  - **Income Regulations**
  - **Denials and Reclamations**
  - **Ease of Financial Burden**

# Self Evolution

**Where am I now? I am...**

- **...a commissioner on the Phoenix Mayor's Commission on Disability Issues**
- **...an "Ability Counts" Award Winner**
- **...an Honors student at GCC, graduating in Spring '06**
- **...a self advocate**
- **...a peer mentor**
- **...independent from the welfare system**
- **...independent in medical care (except for transportation...)**
- **...soon to be driving**

**Thank You**